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Citizen help in taking back city

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

The Calgary police service is stepping up efforts in the fight against the escalating gang violence in the city, but is asking for the community of Calgary to help take back the city.

Police Chief Rick Hanson commended a man who called police Monday night after he saw a man walk into a family restaurant wearing body armour, and said more Calgarians should follow suit.

"I really appreciate the efforts taken by that dad last night God bless that guy. He asked the right question,

'why is that guy wearing body armour in a family restaurant?'" Hanson said.

The man was a suspect arrested last month and charged after a search warrant on a Heritage Point home turned up pipe bombs, guns, ammunition and other weapons.

While Hanson said he be-

lieves the police have the support of the Calgarians, he said there is more the community can do. "A community based approach to crime and early prevention and education is key. We need to work with parents and teach-

ers ... and work with kids at an early age."

Alderman Ric McIver agreed the community needs to focus on early prevention.

"People need to understand most violence in the city at the end of the day is related to drug activity and those

taking part in it are basically helping put guns and bullets into the hands of criminals," he said.

Stephen Snow of the Alberta Communities Crime Prevention Association said community members need to step up together.

"If you see a problem ... let someone know."

Entertainment pg 13



To fake or not to fake accents

Metro Drive pg 9

More room for BMW fun



Travel pg 11



Mexico: A tale of two coasts



Carson Trimble, 9, got the thrill of a lifetime yesterday, hoisting Team Canada captain and Calgarian Thomas Hickey's gold medal when the triumphant hometown player and his teammates returned to Calgary International Airport yesterday.

Hometown heroes return with gold

Our hometown hockey heroes made their triumphant arrival at the Calgary Airport yesterday tired, but still elated from their fifth straight gold-medal win for Team Canada.

Monday night's game at

the World Juniors held in Ottawa ended with a 5-1 victory over Sweden.

Austin Norlin, 10, and Carson Trimble, 9, showed up to catch a glimpse of their Team Canada hero: Team captain

Thomas Hickey.

"It was awesome," said Trimble of the winning game. "Especially when the Swedish goalie got hit."

Both boys lucked out when Hickey was more than willing to meet them and

provide autographs to fans.

Though he couldn't pinpoint a lasting memory yet, Hickey said when he looks back on this in a few years, "it'll probably be the best experience we've ever had."

ALICIA FOX/FOR METRO CALGARY

Two men targeted in suspected gang shooting

VIOLENCE Hours after Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson vowed to put an end to the gang warfare in the city, two men were targeted in what police believe was a gang-related incident in the city's north-east.

At 6:50 p.m., police responded to the 100 block of Coral Shores Landing NE following reports that shots had been fired.

Two men were reportedly exiting a vehicle when an unknown suspect or suspects fired in their direction.

One man was taken to hospital with a gunshot wound. Another man escaped injury and tried to flee in a vehicle, but got stuck in a snow bank trying to get away.

District 5 GIU is leading the investigation, with the assistance of the CPS Gang Unit, Targeted Enforcement Unit and the Calgary Criminal Intelligence Unit.

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Home sales drop to lowest levels in over a decade

Residential MLS sales in Calgary are now at their lowest levels since 1996. According to a report released yesterday by the Calgary Real Estate Board, single-family home sales were down 27 per cent from a year ago December, with the median price of a home in Calgary being \$409,000. **METRO CALGARY**

3

Local



Dog breeder fined

A 32-year-old Calgary dog breeder is facing a \$1,500 fine after letting a mauled pit bull puppy suffer for over a day back in November 2007. He is also banned from owning any animals for two years but says he intends to continue breeding his two dogs after the ban expires.

METRO CALGARY



10 Tonight



Citytv

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Cops need help with hit-and-run

DEATH Cochrane RCMP and Calgary and area crime stoppers conducted a re-enactment in the fatal hit-and-run death of 16-year-old Brittany Bearspaw yesterday on Highway 1 near Cochrane.

Police are looking for the public to come forward with any information they may have in the girl's death.

Police believe Bearspaw was struck by at least three vehicles and two drivers have since come forward with valuable information. **METRO CALGARY**

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Nanotechnology creates smell-free socks and germ-free toilets at metronews.ca/canada

Video Jim Flaherty previews budget measures to boost the economy at metronews.ca/canada



Homeless face danger

City has most violence against homeless in North America

JENNIFER HILLIKER
for Metro Calgary

Charlie Zigglar was minding his own businesses when he accidentally flashed a \$20 bill, a dangerous act when you're hanging out by the Calgary Drop-in Centre.

Zigglar was then attacked and mugged by a fellow homeless man who struck him down with a baseball bat and today Zigglar hobbles around on crutches outside the centre.

"People that are homeless stick together because they have to take care of each other. But then some psycho comes along and ruins it," said the 41-year-old Zigglar. "I would like to get out of this city. I find it extremely out of control."

According to a report released by the Calgary Homeless Foundation, Zigglar is not alone in his con-



Calgary ranked the highest in North America in violence against homeless people according to a recent report by the Calgary Homeless Foundation.

cerns. Almost half of the 137 people surveyed by the foundation said they have been a victim of a violent attack since they've become homeless.

A previous study released in September by the Drop-in Centre said about

75 per cent of its clients have been the victim of at least one attack.

"Most violence goes unreported," said Louise Gallagher, director of public relations at the Drop-in Centre. She said that homeless people are para-

noid about the police, and view them as the bad guy. "So the dealers, for example, have a sense of immunity because of it."

Calgary's rate of violence against homeless was the highest in North America, according to the report.

Chief vows to find shooters

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

POLICE Vowing to find those responsible for gunning down an innocent man on New Year's Day, the city's police chief addressed the escalating gang violence in the city yesterday.

"This act was so heinous in its nature that we will not, will not, give up on finding those responsible," police Chief Rick Hanson told reporters. "It was absolutely irreprehensible and we will be going after those responsible harder than we usually do."

Hanson said it is the Calgary Police's top priority to find the three suspects for the New Year's Day killing that left innocent bystander Keni Su'a dead in a targeted gang hit that killed a known gang member and an associate.

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Canadians stuck in Gaza for at least one more day
A number of Canadians will have to wait at least another day in the Gaza Strip because of unsafe conditions before they can make their way into Israel and escape the violence, officials say. Canadian officials and Israeli authorities are working to find a safer departure time. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



Drive-thrus hit speed bump

City council in St. John's, N.L., has passed a bylaw making it hard for restaurants to open new drive-thrus in that city. The onus will now be on restaurant operators to prove to the city's traffic department that lineups from any new drive-thru will not spill out onto city streets and cause traffic problems.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Military hearing told of alleged shooting

A witness reported seeing Capt. Robert Semrau fire at a severely injured, unarmed Taliban fighter after an ambush in October, a military hearing was told yesterday.

A synopsis of events introduced at the hearing and agreed upon by the military prosecution and defence lawyers provided the first detailed glimpse of the circumstances that led to the 35-year-old Canadian Forces officer being charged with second-degree murder.

It was read at a hearing into whether Semrau, a member of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment, should be released from custody until he stands trial. Military Judge Lt.-Col. Louis-Vincent d'Auteuil reserved his decision until today.

The charge has provoked controversy because it was laid more than two months after the death of the Taliban fighter in Afghanistan's Helmand province on Oct. 19.

According to the statement, Semrau was the on-



Capt. Robert Semrau, front, is escorted by military police after a bail hearing at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa yesterday. Semrau is charged with second-degree murder in the death of an unarmed man in southern Afghanistan last October.

ly soldier in the "proximity" of the wounded insurgent when two shots were heard. The hearing was told that a witness will testify later he saw Semrau fire at the Taliban fighter,

who had already been disarmed.

Prosecutor Maj. Marylene Trudel said the Taliban fighter's body was left behind as the soldiers moved on, and was never

recovered.

The prosecution believes Semrau fired both shots, killing the wounded insurgent without lawful justification, Trudel said. This is the first time a criminal charge has been laid against a Canadian soldier in Afghanistan involving the death of an alleged enemy fighter.

The hearing was held in a nondescript room on the base, where a life-and-death battle halfway around the world was described in terms most people would only recognize from a "Hollywood movie," as the defence lawyer said.

As the statement was read out, Semrau's 35-year-old wife, Amélie Lapierre-Semrau, a kindergarten teacher in nearby Pembroke, tried unsuccessfully to keep their seven-month-old daughter, Canea Michelle Semrau, from crying out.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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New group created to tackle credit crunch

ECONOMY A new working group of bank and government officials is being asked to immediately begin looking at ways to make loans more accessible to Canadian consumers and business, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday.

"We all have responsibilities to ensure that the financial system functions properly in support of the Canadian econ-

omy and certainly the government has a role to play in that. I encourage the heads of banks, the CEOs, to work with the government," he said before heading into pre-budget consultations.

It was Flaherty's first comment on a meeting he and Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney held behind closed doors with bank CEOs in Toronto on Monday.



Jim Flaherty

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CUPE proposal called anti-Semitic

BOYCOTT A proposal by the president of the largest union in the province to boycott Israeli academics at Ontario universities is being labelled as anti-Semitic and an affront to civil liberties by prominent members of Canada's Jewish community.

"CUPE has no business boycotting academics, whether they are Israeli or Jewish," said Avi Benlolo,

president of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center. "It goes against the grain of academia."

On Friday, CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan called for the boycott of Israeli academics and educators who do not condemn the Dec. 29 bombing of the Islamic University in Gaza and "the assault on Gaza in general."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"CUPE has no business boycotting academics."
Avi Benlolo

Hospital report sparks lawsuit

HEALTH A former patient is suing a Toronto hospital that published a study describing how sinks were responsible for the spread of a drug-resistant bacteria in its intensive care unit.

Researchers at the Toronto General Hospital found the location and design of sinks in the ICU led to the spread of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in the ward. The details of their discovery

were outlined in this month's Journal of Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology.

Ronald Sherman, 69, the plaintiff, was one of those who became sick. He was admitted to Toronto General in November 2005, with severe pneumonia, which worsened, according to the claim, when he became infected with *pseudomonas*.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

SETTLEMENT The B.C. Human Rights Tribunal has ruled in favour of a woman whose supervisor offered her marijuana, lingerie and truck tires in return for sex. Kori Harrison, 27, was awarded \$32,000 yesterday at the conclusion of the three-year hearing.

NEGOTIATIONS Employers expect to respond Friday to the union's latest contract offer in talks aimed at avoiding a strike or lockout of dock foremen at Canada's Pacific Coast ports. The threat of a work stoppage has hung over the ports since the beginning of

the year, but the employers bargaining group remains cautiously optimistic a deal can be reached before any job action begins, a spokesman said yesterday. The two sides would have to issue a 72-hour notice before launching a strike or lockout.

P.E.I. An ivory gull, normally seen only in the far north, has settled in on P.E.I.'s North Shore for the past week, CBC News Online reports. Ivory gulls, the only all-white gulls, usually do not venture even as far south as Newfoundland.

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Ex-Nepali 'slave girls' demand rehabilitation

Hundreds of Nepali girls, rescued after being sold off by their poor parents as domestic help, marched in Kathmandu yesterday demanding rehabilitation such as jobs and an education, activists said. Traditionally girls as young as six or seven from the ethnic Tharu community in five districts of west Nepal were "sold" by their parents for as little as 1,500 Nepali rupees (\$20 US). **REUTERS**

World/Business

Israel, Hamas study truce plan

Israel and Hamas studied an Egyptian proposal for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip yesterday that won instant backing from the U.S. and Europe, hours after Israeli shells killed 42 Palestinians at a UN school.

However, Israeli officials also said a major escalation of their 12-day-old offensive would be discussed.

Troops would be pushed deep inside Gaza's cities and refugee camps in a bid to end rocket salvos into Israel by Islamist militants.

In an attack that wounded dozens of civilians, the Israeli army accused Hamas of using civilians as "human shields" and said its troops had fired at the premises after gunmen

Israel reacts

- Israel said yesterday it will set up a "humanitarian corridor" to allow Gazans periodic access to vital goods.
- An Israeli ambassador said late yesterday it plans to take Egypt's truce proposal "very, very seriously."

mortared their positions from inside the school.

The attacks prompted U.S. president-elect Barack

Obama to break his silence, saying civilian deaths were "a source of deep concern" for him. **REUTERS**

Site makes inaugural style easy

STYLE Andrew Jones confesses he is the last person you would turn to for fashion advice, but his new website launched last month allows women to register which gown they will wear to dozens of dinners and balls being held

in conjunction with Barack Obama's swearing in as the next U.S. president.

Jones, who has a banking background, said he got the idea for dressregistry.com several years ago from his more fashion-conscious wife. **REUTERS**

News in brief

ASIA China faces surging protests and riots this year, a state-run magazine said in a blunt warning of the hazards to Communist Party control because of a sharp economic downturn. Faltering growth

could spark anger among millions of migrant workers and university graduates left jobless, said a report in Outlook (Liaowang) Magazine, run by the country's official Xinhua news agency. **REUTERS**

Mexico Awareness tour



Antonio Tomaselli, 30, rides his bike yesterday in Mexico City. Tomaselli started a bike tour eight months ago in northern Alaska, making his way through Canada and the United States, to bring attention to violence against women.

Indian PM slams Pakistani inaction

NEW DELHI Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh accused Pakistan yesterday of acting irresponsibly, saying November's Mumbai attacks must have had support from some of Pakistan's official agencies.

Pakistan rejected the accusation as unacceptable, saying India had begun a propaganda offensive and such charges jeopardized chances of co-operation.

Singh's comments show New Delhi's growing frustration at what it sees as Islamabad's slowness at identifying and arresting the attack's planners.

India blames Pakistan militants for the organized strikes by 10 gunmen in November that killed 179 people. **REUTERS**

Business

Canadian, U.S. markets bucking gloomy feeling

Despite a seemingly endless tide of bad economic news and forecasts, Canadian stocks experienced a sixth straight day of gains yesterday.

The recent rally on the TSX has raised the index 14 per cent from its pre-Christmas woes.

Having closed yesterday at 9,472.09 points, the market lows of November (when the TSX dropped to 7,724.76 points) seem to be fading into the past.

But with war in the Middle East and the national economic outlook even grimmer today than three months ago, many remain weary of branding this recent rally as a return to the bullish days of yore.

More U.S. rallies

- Strength in the tech sector boosted U.S. stocks yesterday, overshadowing data showing slumping factory orders and dismal pending home sales.

"From a macroeconomic point of view, we do still have job losses ahead of us and we'll certainly see the Canadian economy struggle throughout the first few months of 2009," says James Marple, economic forecaster with TD Economics.

On Monday, Canadian bank and commodity stocks led the way for a modest gain in the index.

But those gains came on the same day Canadian automakers said sales had plunged 21.2 per cent. Monday's gains on the TSX showed a growing pattern in recent weeks on both Bay and Wall streets: the markets seem to be rallying on days filled with poor economic data.

David Rosenberg, economist with Merrill Lynch in New York City, said in a report: "As economists keen on assessing the markets, we have to say that we find it absolutely fascinating that since equities bottomed on Nov. 20, the Dow has managed to rack up 1,482 rally points."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business in brief

TELECOM Rogers Communications Inc. posted strong wireless subscriber growth yesterday, but said its weak cable results point to a tough economy. Rogers said it added 199,000 net wireless subscribers in the traditionally strong fourth quarter, up from 183,000 a year earlier.

ECONOMY U.S. president-elect Barack Obama said yesterday that he expects to inherit a U.S. budget deficit approaching \$1 trillion US and that his administration would have to make some tough budget choices.

DISMISSALS Air India sacked 10 air hostesses for being "exceptionally overweight." The staff had been grounded for years and were fired after medical board declared them unfit for duty. Some of the hostesses took the case to New Delhi High Court, but their case was later thrown out. **REUTERS**

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Give banks some credit

Despite war of words, stats show loans are still flowing

MoneyMatters



Charles Davies
Veteran Business Writer

As a onetime inmate of the Canadian banking system, I can tell you from first-hand experience that bankers are prone to excesses and lapses in judgement. The bank I worked for — one of the Big Five — has long had an eerie proficiency at messing up, finding itself covered in goo after the bursting of every financial bubble in recent decades. Banks are also the institutions we love to hate. We may need them, but there's always that sense that, like the unreconstructed Scrooge, they are gouging us.

But are they turning us away in our hour of economic crisis? If you believe Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Bank of Canada

Even the Bank of Canada admitted in its December financial system review that "credit growth ... has generally been sustained throughout the crisis."

governor Mark Carney, the banks are shutting off the lending taps just when we need credit most. The banks are charged with sopping up the liquidity that Ottawa and the Bank of Canada has provided to stimulate lending and using it to strengthen their own balance sheets. A war of words has been waged between the two sides since early December, and this week Flaherty and Carney called top bankers in for a meeting to apply direct pressure.

On the evidence, Flaherty and Carney don't have much of a case. Using the

Bank of Canada's own statistics, Toronto Dominion Bank argued recently that loans have kept flowing through the crisis. From September to November, household credit was up more than 12 per cent year to year while business credit rose 13.4 per cent — hardly suggesting a credit squeeze. It's also been noted that Canadian banks made up some of the difference as foreign banks and auto financing arms fled the market.

Even the Bank of Canada admitted in its December financial system review that "credit growth ... has generally been

sustained throughout the crisis."

Banks could be forgiven if they were a whole lot tighter. Ironically, Ottawa's bank regulator, the Office of Superintendent of Financial Institutions, has been signalling that it may raise regulatory capital requirements this year, a good reason to hoard cash. Besides, in a weak economy, banks normally become more scrupulous lenders and boost reserves because there's a greater likelihood of loan defaults. That's only prudent, given that the banks' first responsibility is to assure viable operations in order to protect depositors' funds. Staying healthy also helps preserve shareholder value, which affects a majority of Canadians who, directly or indirectly, own bank stock. What's good for them is at least partly what's good for most of us.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer and editor who has worked for news organizations and publications including Business Week, Canadian Business, Report On Business magazine, Reuters, and Financial Post.



Obama's silence on Gaza may allow him a fresh start

Even as Israelis and Palestinians plunged deeper into conflict, U.S. president-elect Barack Obama remained silent, refusing to budge from his one-president-at-a-time mantra.

Obama takes office Jan. 20, but has not commented on the Middle East crisis since Israel launched attacks on Gaza nine days ago.

His advisers insist that only President George W. Bush can speak for America until then.

While most prominent U.S. politicians have backed Israel, critics have noted that Obama joined Bush in condemning the killing of civilians in attacks in November in Mumbai, India. They would have liked him to say something about the fate of Palestinian civilians caught in the fighting.

Domestic politics and international diplomacy could be factors in Obama's silence. He may hope the crisis will reach a turn-



ing point where a new president, untarnished by previous comments, can make a difference with a fresh start.

"If I were Obama, I wouldn't want to talk about it either. Frankly, it's a lot more comfortable to let this one hang on the president," said Edward Walker Jr., who served as U.S. ambassador to Israel from 1997 to 1999.

He also knows any statement is fraught with traps.

Pro-Israeli comments by Obama risk upsetting the Arab world even before he takes office.

Comments that seem critical of Israel would anger its American supporters.

DEBORAH CHARLES/REUTERS

Word on the street: What's your new year's resolution — and have you broken it?

Jen Galligan

age 43, Calgary

A: Mine is to hopefully drop 20 pounds. So far, I'm sticking to it. That's one resolution I can say I didn't break.

Zach Pipes

age 19, Calgary

A: I didn't really make any this year. I never went along with it for the last two years I made them ... so what's the point?

Simon Kursa

age 31, Edmonton

A: I wanted to make sure I do yoga or go to the gym at least three times a week, and I haven't broken it yet.

Vanessa Backman

age 31, Edmonton

A: I didn't make a new year's resolution this year, because I knew I would break it.

Jamie Hunter

age 36, Vancouver

A: To take salsa dancing classes. I've paid my money, so I'll have to go. My girlfriend won't let me skip out.

Sarah Rushton

age 22, Halifax

A: It's an informal resolution to go back to the gym. I broke my ankle during the summer, so I wasn't able to go this semester.



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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Romero, Mitre get big suspensions

Philadelphia Phillies reliever J.C. Romero and Yankees minor-leaguer Sergio Mitre were suspended for the first 50 games of next season after testing positive for a banned substance. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

7

Sports

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Calgary downs Sharks

NHL RESULT**Sharks 2 Flames 5**

LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Calgary

THE SKINNY: The Flames jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first period and held on to defeat their Western Conference rivals in front of an appreciative sold-out crowd. The victory helped avenge the sting of a 6-1 loss in San Jose on Oct. 13.

SHOOTING GALLERY:

The Flames (24-12-4) fired the first 15 shots on net and built up a 2-0 lead before Mike Grier finally recorded



Curtis Glencross celebrates his goal during the first period against the Sharks last night.

the first shot of the game for the Sharks (29-5-5) at 16:51 of the opening frame.

Curtis Glencross and David Moss each had a goal and an assist, while Rene Bourque set up a pair of goals.

HOT FLAMES: Daymond Langkow scored twice to give him five goals and four assists on his current six-game point-scoring streak.

THE NEXT GAME: Calgary plays the New York Islanders tomorrow (7 p.m., Sportsnet, Fan 960).

A biting loss for Senators

NHL RESULT**Senators 2 Sabres 4**

THE SKINNY: Jarkko Ruutu allegedly bit the Sabres' Andrew Peters on the hand during a first period skirmish, and Buffalo held on to defeat the Senators by a pair, handing Ottawa another road loss.

THE QUOTE: "The last time I saw that was in boxing ... Tyson-Holyfield," said Peters.

THE REBUTTAL: "His finger was in my mouth but I didn't bite it," said Ruutu.

TWO IN THIRTY-TWO: With Buffalo ahead 3-0, Jason Spezza scored two goals in a span of 32



Andrew Peters of the Sabres reacts after allegedly being bitten on the hand by Jarkko Ruutu last night.

seconds for Ottawa midway through the middle frame to narrow the Sabres lead to 3-2.

THE PLAYOFF SPOT: With the loss, the Senators are 13 points behind the eighth place Sabres and the last playoff spot

in the Eastern Conference.

THE NEXT GAME: Ottawa plays one more road game at Boston tomorrow night before returning home to Scotiabank Place for the first time since Dec. 20. **MIKE BEASLEY/FOR METRO CANADA**

Bowl advertisers think twice

The Super Bowl is always high pressure for advertisers. But this year, expect more nail biting, pacing and hand wringing than ever before from chief marketing officers.

They have good reason to be anxious. A recession that has companies closely watching expenses — and cutting everything from staffing to travel costs —

makes the \$3 million US price tag for 30 seconds of commercial time during NBC's broadcast of the National Football League's championship game on Feb. 1 even more conspicuous than usual. Commercial prices for the Super Bowl are always eye-popping, far above what is paid for any other TV event, partly because it draws more than 95

million U.S. viewers. Still, NBC sold most of its advertising time for the Super Bowl by the end of the summer at prices around the \$3 million mark. At the moment, it has about 10 per cent of its commercial time left to sell. This year, General Motors and FedEx decided against running commercials during the Super Bowl, citing the recession.

REUTERS

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New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees won The Associated Press 2008 NFL Offensive Player of the Year award yesterday. Brees threw for 5,069 yards and 34 touchdowns this season, coming up only 15 yards short of Dan Marino's all-time single season record for passing yardage. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports in brief

NHL St. Louis Blues forward Paul Kariya underwent successful hip surgery yesterday and will be sidelined indefinitely.

NBA Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony will miss three to four weeks after a visit with a hand specialist

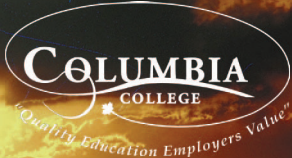
confirmed he has a non-displaced metacarpal fracture in his right hand.

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Economy strikes NBA

Quietly, but surely, NBA clubs have been discounting seats for their games in recent weeks.

It's a delicate, unprecedented strategy — created, of course, by the economic crisis — and it's become commonplace throughout the NBA, including Canada, where the Toronto Raptors are suffering through a lamentable, losing season.

Despite the discounts, attendance figures throughout the NBA are plummeting. Empty seats are sometimes outnumbering those with keisters in them. And NBA executives are so concerned, sources tell Metro, they've called an emergency meeting, to be held in

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

Phoenix next week.

NBA commissioner **David Stern** has issued a gag order on the meeting but a league exec told Metro: "There's a fear that our fans can't afford or won't keep paying what they've paid in the past for tickets. So next week's meeting is critical." Best guess: The NBA soon will announce a decrease in ticket prices across the board.

The NBA's problems here are unquestionably complicated by the fact that some of the Raptors' games are carried on TSN2, which is not available on the country's — and Toronto's — largest cable carrier. Rogers is depriving Canadian basketball fans by excluding TSN2 from its menu, and industry sources suspect its motive is at least partly attributed to its desire to see less competition for its own all-sports network, Rogers Sportsnet.

Whatever, it's a sad and silly situation. And, last Friday, TSN2 drew a mere 18,000 viewers for a Raptors-Houston Rockets game.

That's pathetic, considering that many Raps games on the main TSN network attract audiences of around 200,000.

Speaking of Houston, ex-Raps star **Tracy McGrady** is upsetting Rick Adelman these days. The Rockets' coach suspects the six-foot-eight guard has been dogging it on occasion. "Tracy's been very unaggressive at times," Adelman said. "He can't keep playing like this or we just won't be any good."

The CFL's first major surprise of the year has come in the first week of the year.

Toronto native **Mike Benevides** — despite receiving a multiyear head-coaching offer that sources figured he would gladly accept from the beleaguered Argonauts — has elected to stay on as the B.C. Lions' defensive coordinator. "Can't figure it out," an Argos source said yesterday. "The guy (Benevides) all but officially signed. We're puzzled. Are we this undesirable?"

CFLers such as B.C. defensive lineman **Cameron Wake**, Edmonton Eskimos offensive lineman **Patrick Kabongo** and Calgary Stampeder's long snapper **Pat MacDonald** have been impressing NFL types during recent workouts and may be close to bolting to the bigger and better-paying league.

And **Greg Marshall** has jumped from his longtime position as defensive co-ordinator of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to become the Hamilton Tiger-Cats' defensive co-ordinator.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.



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Metro Drive

New Cadillac at auto show

General Motors announced this week that the 2010 Cadillac SRX will go on display at the 2009 North American International Auto Show in Detroit later this month. The floundering firm is hoping the car's new design and improved features will help it better compete with other luxury rivals.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

135i: No small feat

JIM KERR
for Metro Canada



BMW's 1-series is a compact 2+2 sports car available in both coupe and cabriolet form. This is the smallest BMW but great things can come in small packages and the 1-series certainly fits that description.

Two models are offered. Both the 128i and the 135i come with a 3.0-litre, 24-valve DOHC inline six-cylinder engine, but the 135i gets a little boost in horsepower with the addition of twin turbochargers and an intercooler. I took a 135i

coupe out for a drive to experience the power and came back smiling about the complete package.

Outside, the 135i has BMW's traditional twin kidney shaped grille but in a smaller form, putting more emphasis on the large air intakes across the bottom of the front fascia.

A sharp bodyline starts at the headlights between the junction of the hood and the front fender and runs straight back the length of the body separating the car's greenhouse area from the lower body.

A chrome strip runs above the frameless door glass and rear side glass, highlighting

The BMW 135i



the coupe's roofline. Black trim on the B-pillar provides the illusion of a longer side glass, but when viewed directly from the side, the short rear window and trunk lid are obvious. A rear spoiler is integrated into the trunk lid design.

Inside, front seat room is great but rear seat and headroom are limited. The front bucket seats slide forward for rear seat access, but entry is best left for agile friends. Our coupe came

with the optional sport bucket seats. This \$800 option gives 12-way adjustment to both front buckets, with manual control of height, tilt, fore/aft, recline and thigh support. Power side bolsters allow the seat sides to adjust to the driver's profile.

The dash gauges are large and round while the rest of the dash is conservative and uncluttered. A navigation system with iDrive control

is optional. The important features for the driver are the start button on the dash and the six speed shifter between the seats.

The six cylinder twin turbo engine comes to life with a muted rumble and gets the adrenaline flowing. Maximum torque starts at only 1,400 rpm, so the car pulls smoothly away from a stop sign and doesn't tire you out in stop and go driving. Step firmly on the gas

pedal and the engine feels like it would pull strong forever.

This is a performance car with 300 horsepower in a 1,530 kg body and it has brakes to match the power. It is nimble on corners and feels effortless to drive even when pushing it hard. It is also surprisingly economical on fuel. The direct fuel injection and variable cam timing enable 7.9 litres/100 km on the highway.

'09 BMW 135i coupe

Type: Compact sports car
Price: \$41,700 MSRP
Engine: 3.0L twin turbo inline 6 cylinder
HP: 300 hp@5,800 rpm

Highlights

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Veteran auto journalist

I recently completed my first test drive in an all-electric vehicle.

I have no idea how many kilometres were possible with a full charge, because half way through my test the salesman took the keys away. He also said if I ever came back to Toys "R" Us, and got on that pink Barbie Escalade again, he would call security.

I wish this guy had spoken with Larry Murphy, as I had. Then he might have better understood my desire to experience the electrical movement. Murphy is best described as GM's future strategist. His job is to predict what personal transportation will look like in the future and how GM might position itself in that

future. (I know, I know, GM and the future aren't entirely a done deal, but that's a business story, this is more of a technical one.)

He noted that the DNA of the automobile hasn't changed much in 100 years. Internal combustion engine. Fuelled by some kind of petroleum product. Lots of on-board mechanical and hydraulic systems. This type of vehicle also operates independently of other vehicles — you have to pay attention to the car and to the traffic.

"A relatively dumb machine," says Murphy.

He believes that the automotive DNA is about to change, to one based around electrical drivetrains, and to one also based on the notion that vehicles will be connected to each other on a grid. (Murphy considers fuel-cell technology a branch of electrical; fuel cells convert hydrogen to water and electricity.)

Not everyone agrees with Murphy, but the arguments for shaping cars around this model are

(GM's Larry Murphy) believes that the automotive DNA is about to change, to one based around electrical drivetrains, and to one also based on the notion that vehicles will be connected to each other on a grid.

compelling, even if you go beyond the obvious one of sustainable and clean energy consumption.

- Electric motors are small and do not need transmissions. This reduces weight and complexity. This also means less maintenance, not more.

- Electric cars have less inherent design constraints. Designers will be free to re-think what vehicle shapes are possible, and where to put people and their cargo.

- Once connected to a grid so that congestion is relieved and cars don't crash into each other any more, then you can take even more mass out of the car — because you won't need all the on-board safety systems we need today.

- If all the above works as advertised, and safety and environment issues are under control, then the "automakers" will be able to concentrate more on the fun side of personal transportation. He figures they could eventually operate more like the fashion industry, and bring out fashionable exteriors and interiors almost on a seasonal basis.

Before we get there, there are a few technology bits to work out. Battery technology, for example, is acting like that four-year-old kid that refuses to keep up with the group. But he'll come along, surely. And when he does, I'm sure we'll all be singing our happy little electric song.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

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Budget-friendly Washington, D.C.

Frommers' list of top destinations for 2009, which focuses on places that are affordable and interesting, is led by Washington, D.C.; the guide notes that almost every major attraction the city has to offer is free. **REUTERS**

11

Travel

Shaky future

The news that Waterford Wedgwood PLC, the makers of crystal and china, filed for bankruptcy protection this week leaves not only the future of employees and several venerable brands up in the air, but also the viability of one of Ireland's top tourist attractions. Visitors flocked to the firm's crystal plant in Waterford, southeast Ireland, to watch glassblowers and other master craftsmen ply their trade; waterfordvisitorcentre.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Two tales of the Riviera Nayarit

On Mexico's Pacific Coast, you can live the high life or go off-grid

DENISE BALKISSOON
for Metro Canada



The term "snow squall" is now in regular rotation on the weather report and just about every Canadian is ready to jump on a flight south. But while the desire for more degrees Celsius is widespread, winter travellers have many differences.

Some nine-to-fivers just want a week on the beach, period: This type of vacationer considers doing absolutely nothing the best antidote to the daily grind. Others are trying to inject some adventure and new experiences into a life made grey by routine.

Either way, the stretch of ocean dubbed the Riviera Nayarit offers enticements to every sort of sun worshipper.

Nayarit is a small province in central Mexico, just below the Tropic of Cancer. The southern point of its coastal region is Puerto Vallarta, legendary as a vacation spot ever since Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton made it their love nest in the 1960s.

Once tiny, Puerto Vallarta is now a bustling tourist hot spot, sometimes tacky, sometimes fabulous, full of little art galleries worth an afternoon's perusal. For those wanting something more chilled out, head 20 minutes north of the airport to Nuevo Vallarta, where a strip of hotels caters to the weary beach bum. Most of these are full-service resorts, but keep in mind that every all-inclusive is not created equal. Even if your holiday itinerary reads only "beach, buffet, beer, repeat," you don't want to spend your precious week eating hotdogs on a poorly kept beach."

fet, beer, repeat," you don't want to spend your precious week eating hotdogs on a poorly kept beach.

Check out Riu Palace Pacifico, the latest Mexican mega-resort opened by the Spanish hotel chain. My cohort and I spent four days here indulging our laziest selves. After sleeping through the morning, we'd enjoy chilaquiles at the buffet, an awesome local breakfast of fried tortilla bits, beans, tomatoes and cheese.

Next, it was time to tan, jump into the ocean for a bit and then wile away the afternoon in the pool sipping Red Eyes (a surprisingly delicious blend of Clamato juice and beer). With a total of 110 hotels worldwide, Riu has the resort game down to a science.

Although busy, the Pacifico always feels spacious, with enough lounge chairs, bartenders and à la carte restaurant seats to keep all the guests in the 445 rooms happy. One nice aspect of visiting a resort here (as opposed to an all-inclusive in a country like Cuba or the Dominican Republic) is the chance to mingle with Mexican vacationers.

I lost an embarrassingly bad game of ping-pong to Bernard, a dad from Guadalajara who had made the three-hour drive west to spend a long weekend by the beach with his family. Despite its cushy trappings, the Palace is defi-

nately a family spot, with kids chattering in rapidfire Spanish holding raucous relay races in the humongous pool. Come dark, the children disappear and grown-ups learn salsa in the flashy lavender ballroom that evokes a Mexican Moulin Rouge.

After half a week of not lifting a finger, it was time for us to slip into backpacker mode. A three-hour drive through winding roads overhung with lush leaves brought us to the northern tip of Riviera Nayarit. Here, in a wee fishing town known as San Blas, our next four days had an entirely different rhythm.

At 8 a.m., we'd have the ocean to ourselves, so he'd practise surfing and I'd take a long swim. Next, a quick bike ride down the road to pick up a breakfast of piping hot banana bread. Ten more minutes of pedalling brought us to the boys peddling Jungle Boat rides through the mangrove swamp, a steamy paradise where blue herons and an-

"Even if your holiday itinerary reads only 'beach, buffet, beer, repeat,' you don't want to spend your precious week eating hotdogs on a poorly kept beach."

ingas fly overhead and vibrant pink orchids sprout from fallen trees; after hunching quietly in our boat for almost an hour, we finally saw a few alligators, too. Satisfied, we'd be ready for lunch at one of the many amazing taquerias, where handmade corn tortillas filled with a pile of meat and toppings cost 15 pesos (about \$1.50),



At Stoners Surf Camp, a low-key hostel and restaurant in San Blas, the affordable overnight rates include the use of charming, rickety old bikes.

max.

Our home base in San Blas was Stoners Surf Camp, a low-key hostel and restaurant run by a former Mexican longboard champion. A cabana with a double bed was just 200 pesos a night (including the use of charming, rickety old bikes). Sleeping just 15 feet from the crashing waves made afternoon siestas especially romantic, and we had front row seats when the local surfers hit the waves just before dusk.

We'd watch them show off their skills, then bike into town to grab dinner and avoid the swarms of tiny mosquitos that appear as the sun sets. The main plaza was good for an hour or two

of people watching, its trees full of invisible birds that squawk incessantly at all hours. Since the sidewalks roll up pretty early here, by 10 p.m. we'd be back in our secluded beach hut.

Would I rather have been welcoming the dawn with the partying revellers at the Riu Palace? I'm just glad I got to fit in both.



Riviera Nayarit

- Riu Palace Pacifico (above), double suites including meals and drinks for two, from \$1,800 a week; riu.com.
- Stoners Surf Camp, two-person cabanas from 150 pesos a night; stonerssurf-camp.com.
- Pan de Plantano Juan Banana, 219 Calle Canalizo Sur, San Blas. Fresh banana bread daily, 40 pesos a loaf.
- La Parrillada, west end of the main plaza, San Blas. Tacos from 10 pesos. Try the asada (steak) and camarones (shrimp), and pile on all six sauces and toppings.
- Mike McDonald, 75 Avenida Benito Juarez, San Blas. A nice restaurant for a sit-down meal. Try the pollo mole (chicken mole) enchiladas.

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Touring Chernobyl's ghostly remnants

TheTravelJunkie



Metro columnist Julia Dimon stands in front of Chernobyl's reactor No. 4, and takes a reading on her Geiger counter.

The site of an infamous power plant may not be a likely place to spend your vacation but every year, curious tourists make their way to Chernobyl for a look at where the world's worst nuclear disaster took place.

On Apr. 26, 1986, at 1:23 a.m., reactor No. 4 exploded, releasing nearly nine tons of radioactive material into the environment. That's 90 times as much as the Hiroshima bomb. It contaminated the air, soil and water in parts of Ukraine, Belarus, Poland and Russia.

There are disputes surrounding the number of deaths the accident caused. The World Health Organization reports that fewer than 50 deaths can be directly attributed to that day, and predicts some 4,000 people could eventually die of radiation exposure released in the melt down. Greenpeace contends that the eventual fatalities will be closer to 93,000.

However, the contaminated zones are apparently safe enough for tourists to visit. (I'm not entirely convinced, I suppose I'll know for sure if I start glowing green.) There are several Kiev-based tour agencies that offer all-inclusive day trips to Chernobyl.

My own trip to the site began with a 120-kilometre drive from Kiev, to an area near the reactor called the exclusion zone.

I presented my passport at a series of checkpoints, got a safety briefing, signed a waiver and drove through a deserted area.

Despite high levels of radiation, everything looked normal. The grass was a healthy shade of green, trees were full and leafy, bees were pollinating. Nature has been resilient — or it appears so, at any rate. I hopped out of the van and stood in front of the infamous reactor. It was incredible how close I could get, considering there's still radioactive sludge brewing inside.

My Geiger counter was reading off the charts near patches of moss on the ground. Since the moss is soaked with radiation, tourists are warned against touching or standing on any clumps. No eating, drinking or smoking either — although the tour group did end up drinking vodka with a guide who claimed it would protect against radiation poisoning.

Next was a visit to Pripjat, a town three kilometres away from the reactor, from which 45,000 people were evacuated following the disaster.

Walking around this abandoned city, I felt as if I

were the last woman on earth. It was post-apocalyptic. Wilderness had taken over, dominating cement structures, causing them to crumble and crack like Roman ruins. Weeds pushed through floor boards and branches overtook ex-apartments.

Rusted cribs and burnt dolls were scattered around a former preschool. With school books strewn around the room and black boards still fresh with chalky arithmetic, the scene was a time capsule of Soviet-era life. An amusement park, set to open the day after the nuclear explosion, was just a graveyard of rusting bumper cars and a lone ferris wheel.

The scariest part of the tour was learning that the "sarcophagus," a concrete-and-steel shell built to contain Reactor No. 4's radioactive spew, is leaking. Our guide warned, that if the proper measurements aren't taken in the next few years to rebuild this deteriorating shelter, there's a real risk of a more severe Chernobyl-type disaster happening again.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.



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Roman Polanski, who last month moved to have a decades-old charge of unlawful intercourse with a minor dismissed, filed a motion this week to have the entire case removed from the Los Angeles Superior Court system and handed to the California Judicial Council for review. **EONLINE.COM**

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK. DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA



Celebrity split

Medium star Patricia Arquette has filed for divorce from her husband of more than two years, actor Thomas Jane, Los Angeles court papers filed Monday reveal. PEOPLE.COM

Accents: To fake or not

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



Of all the criticism that Tom Cruise has received for playing a German soldier in his latest thriller *Valkyrie*, the one that stands out is for his lack of a Bavarian accent.

"It seems to be the point of contention that will not die and frankly if that's the problem (critics) have, I'm happy," stated screenwriter and co-producer Christopher McQuarrie in a recent interview.

"I'd much rather have them attack me than the people in the story."


But that's precisely the point that's unclear — do fake accents detract audiences from the story? While critics have blasted *Valkyrie* and its use of American, English and



Lev Schreiber, left, and Daniel Craig in a scene from *Defiance*.

German actors speaking in their own dialect as distracting, McQuarrie argues the opposite.

"Everybody walking around speaking these German accents, it starts to feel a little bit like a Mel Brooks



rector Edward Zwick, who later this month will be releasing *Defiance* starring Daniel Craig (better known as James Bond), is one. For his drama about a group of war-time Russian resistance fighters, the accent was absolutely necessary.

"We had a cast made of Americans, Australians, English, Lithuanians, Russians and for everyone to speak with a different accent would've been entirely weird to me," Zwick said.

comedy,” said McQuarrie.

"We just said, 'It seems to me that this is a human story as much as it is a German story and can we just dispense with the absurdity?'"

Many filmmakers would debate that argument. Di-

"I think it might've helped Daniel disappear into the part — some people's perceptions of James Bond and a lot of that (needs to) happen very quickly."

Jett Travolta's spirit is immortal: Scientology


PEOPLE John Travolta's son Jett, who died of a seizure last week at age 16, will live on as an immortal spiritual being, according to the beliefs of the Church of Scientology which counts the actor and his wife as prominent supporters.

Jett Travolta is expected to be given a Scientology service this week upon his family's return to Florida. An autopsy was performed, but results have not been released.

REUTERS

Intelle**Vision**

Global**Style**

 See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

CA	Vu SC			7:00		7:30		8:00		8:30		9:00		9:30		10:00		10:30		11:00	
17/09	267	351	- ACCESS	Truth, Duty, Valour			Law & Order "Chattel"			Old Christine			Old Christine			Sarah Connor Chronicles			Help TV		
	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk		Hollywood		Of Murder and Memory (2008, Drama)			Annabeth Gish.			Law & Order: SVU			News (N)				
	-	-	4 OMNI	Two/Half Men		The Simpsons		News			News			The Simpsons			King		Metropia		
	-	371	5 KXL	4 News at 6		4 News at 6:30		Entertainment		The Insider (N)		Scrubs		Scrubs		20/20 (HDTV) (N)		Walters			
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.		Jeopardy! (N)		Just for Laughs			CBC News: the fifth estate (N)			CBC News: The National			The Hour				
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada		Entertainment		House "Lucky Thirteen"			Bones (HDTV PA)			Bones (HDTV PA)			News Hour				
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU			13: Fear Is Real (N)			Hates Chris		Friends		I Love Money			Your City				
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)		L'Épicerie (N)		Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)			Les Galas 2007 du Festival			Le Téléjournal et Les Nou			TJ Alberta				
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming									Local Programming								
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)		Hollywood		The Doctors (N)			Old Christine			Gary Unmarr		The 35th Annual People's Choice Awards					
primetime	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer			Great Performances (HDTV) Kevin			Kline stars as Cyrano de Bergerac. (N)					Carnegie Hall		Chihuly Hotshp				
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National			Fast Food Junkies			CBC News: The National			CBC News: The National			Fast Food					
	-	370	16 KBC	News (N)		Be-Millionaire		Jeopardy! (N)		Wheel-Fortune		Knight Rider (HDTV)		Law & Order: SVU			Law & Order				
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons		Raymond		Two/Half Men		Two/Half Men		Bones (HDTV PA)		Bones (HDTV PA)			News (N)				
	297	652	37 WPIX	90210 (HDTV)			PIX News at Ten Tong.			Two/Half Men		Friends		Sex and-City		According-Jim		Bring Wall St			
	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live			Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)						Larry King Live			Cooper 360					
	408	400	31 CNN2	Lou Dobbs Tonight			Nancy Grace			Showbiz Tonight			Lou Dobbs Tonight			Nancy Grace					
	400	400	21 TSN	NHL Hockey			SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Off the Record			Heads-Up Poker Champ.			Rodeo: PRCA					
	408	418	27 net	Flames Week		Oilers Conn		NHL Hockey Vancouver Canucks at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Con.			Sportsnet Con.				
	410	403	30 SCORE	NBA Basketball Miami Heat at Denver Nuggets. (Live)						Score Tonight			Hardcore Hockey			Talk					
sports	411	457	44 OLN	Mantracker			Bounty Hunter		Dakar Rally		Survivorman				Mantracker		Bounty Hunter				
	417	406	48 SPEED	Pinks		Pinks Outtakes		Wrecked		Wrecked		Pinks		Pass Time		Am. Thunder		Am. Thunder		Pinks	
family	552	543	20 YTV	Drake & Josh		iCarly		Scorpion		Prank Patrol		Malcolm-Mid.		Futurama		Adrenaline Proj		Prank Patrol		Falcon Beach	
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101		Life Derek		Wizards-Place		That's-Raven		Zack & Cody		Natural-Sadie		Han. Montana		Life Derek		Ned's School	
	555	545	67 TOON	Ben 10		Johnny Test		Totally Spies		Total Drama		6teen		6teen		Misadventures		Futurama		The Critic	
	575	583	11 CMT	Reba		Reba		Hope & Faith		Hope & Faith		Fortune's Favour				Home Improve.		Home Improve.		Reba	
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear		Miss Spider		Big Comfy		Rolie Polie Olie		Max & Ruby		Babar		Backyardigans		Dora-Explorer		Go, Diego, Go!	
	-	-	18 CTV	The Insider (N)		E! News		Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		The 35th Annual People's Choice Awards (HDTV)						News (N)					
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One				EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two											
	602	568	23 W	Style by Jury		Style by Jury		Will & Grace		Friends		Grocery Bag		Grocery Bag		How Clean		Too Posh		Maxed Out (N)	
	521	560	24 TLC	Solved "Broken Vows"						Personal Justice (N)		Extreme Forensics			Solved "Broken Vows"			Personal Just.			
	603	561	25 FOOD	Iron Chef America						Top Chef "Focus Group"		Restaurant Makeover			Challenge			Iron Chef Am.			
615	520	26 A&E	Dog the Bounty Hunter						Parking Wars		Parking Wars		Parking Wars		Parking Wars		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter		
617	522	32 SHOW	Wife Swap						The Outer Limits		About a Girl		About a Girl		The Guard		Big Love				
601	562	33 SLICE	Real Housewives of OC						Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive		ET Canada		Matchmaker		Real Housewives of OC			Trading Sp			
-	633	34 ENC2	After Hours		(7:25) The Golden Child (1986, Comedy)						Enter the Dragon *** (1973, Adventure)			(10:45) Black Belt Jones							
520	505	35 DISC	Deadliest Catch						Mayday "Falling From the Sky"		Daily Planet			MythBusters "Pirates 2!"			Dirty Jobs				
620	523	36 BRAVO	Wingfield		Wingfield		Trés Portugal		Art is a Mirror		Law & Order		Without a Trace			Fatherland					
294	650	40 WPCH	(6) Air Force One (1997, Suspense)						Seinfeld		Family Guy		Family Guy		Air Force One *** (1997, Suspense)						
626	547	41 COM	Laughs		Comedy Now		Air Farce		Just for Laughs					Corner Gas		The Simpsons		South Park		Comedy Inc.	
-	539	42 TCM	(6) Phitfit!		(7:45) Mister Roberts *** (1955, Comedy)			Henry Fonda, Jack Lemmon.			My Sister Eileen *** (1955, Musical Comedy)										
628	584	43 SPIKE	UFC's Ultimate Fight Night						UFC Unleashed			CSI: NY "Cold Reveal"			Unsolved Myst.						
522	516	45 HIST	The Real Da Vinci Code			NCIS "Hiatus"			Cities of the Underworld			The Real Da Vinci Code			NCIS						
627	528	46 SPACE	The Dresden Files			Rabbit Fall			Rabbit Fall		Stargate SG-1 "Spirits"			Star Trek: Next Gener.			Deep Space 9				
-	-	47 AMC	(6) Commando (1985)			Blown Away ** (1994, Suspense)			Jeff Bridges, Tommy Lee Jones.						The Usual Suspects						
619	525	49 TROP	What Happen?		What Happen?		Reality		Ad Persuasion		Family Guy		Seinfeld		Seinfeld		Raymond		Family Guy		
600	564	50 HGTV	Property Virgin		Unsellable		Hid Potential		Really Big Flip		Holmes on Homes				Property Virgin		Unsellable		Mansions		
501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet				News		CTV Newsnet		News		CTV Newsnet		News		CTV Newsnet		News		
504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play						Market Call		Headline		Market Call		Commodities		Business News		Squeeze Play		
526	507	92 VIVA	The West Wing						Mediums		Psychic Detect		Mediums		Encounters		Judging Amy		Lost in Austen		
269	350	93 APTN	APTN National News: Contact						Reservation Soldiers		Canadian Geographic		Tribal Treks		Guides		Wings-Canada				
-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News		News		Matchmaker		Mom's-Upset		Van. Nights		Iranian Pop		Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical				
571	581	100 MMM	Back In		Back In		All-Time Top 10						Fabulous Life Of...			Party of Five			All-Time 10		
570	580	101 MM	So You Think You Can Dance						PunchMunch			Pimp My Ride		Pimp My Ride		disBand					
581	566	102 MTV	Bromance			The Real World (N)			MTV Live		After		Next		Parent Control		Real World				

critics' corner

The 35th Annual People's Choice Awards

You picked them; now watch them collect their prizes. As the name makes clear, fan votes determine the winners of these awards, which cover movies, music and television. Acting nominees include Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway, Will Smith, Hugh Laurie and the late Heath Ledger. Up for honors in the music categories are Rihanna, Alicia Keys, Carrie Underwood, Chris Brown and more. Queen Latifah - a nominee for favorite leading lady — returns as host. 9 PM on CHTV 10 PM on KREM



Maxed Out

It's only natural for parents to want to give their kids everything they didn't have. But one thing many parents forget to give their children is an understanding of money and budgeting. When you combine kids who think money grows on trees and parents who hate to say no, the result can be disaster. In this new episode, host Alison Griffiths tries to help one such family take control of its spending and teach the kids a few lessons about money. 11 PM on W



Leona Lewis is to publish her autobiography. The Bleeding Love singer, 23, has signed a book deal with Hodder and Stoughton to reveal the story of her rise to worldwide fame. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Lindsay denies breakup rumours

RELATIONSHIP Lindsay Lohan strongly denied media reports she has split with Samantha Ronson, people.com reports. In a MySpace Celebrity Blog posting under "rumors," the actress writes, "Little piece of TRUE information: We did NOT break up!"

Lohan, 22, tells media outlets reporting the split, "Get your stories straight please. It's really annoying to have all of your friends emailing you saying, i saw, i read, etc ... NOT TRUE."

She signs the post with a happy face and "xoxox Lindsay," people.com adds.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kate overjoyed for ex Armstrong

PEOPLE Kate Hudson couldn't be more thrilled for former fling Lance Armstrong, who is expecting a child with girlfriend Anna Hansen, usmagazine.com reports.

Asked if she's happy for her ex, she told the website at the Bride Wars premiere in New York, "Of course! Oh, yeah!"

Hudson also said her new comedy hasn't made her want to wed again. (In 2006 she split from ex-husband Chris Robinson.)

But she says the idea of a dream wedding still appeals to her: "I'm a girl. I think all girls, deep down, have that fairy tale thing."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Amy's holiday fling?

PEOPLE For a change of pace, Amy Winehouse is looking fit in 2009 as she enjoys the Caribbean sunshine alongside a sporty hunk, people.com reports. The website noted the 25-year-old has been pictured on the arm of former rugby player Joshua Bowman as she continues her vacation in St. Lucia.

Bowman, who is quoted in the U.K.'s Daily Mail saying, "She's just a cool girl, very nice, and we're just very friendly," is said to be on the island with his mother and sister. He is a former player with rugby team Saracens and has since turned to acting.

People.com adds that he said of his new friend, "She's a good laugh — she is such a lovely girl and on great form. I can't say much more than that."

Some reports are calling her friendship with Bowman a "holiday romance."

Winehouse's U.K. rep Chris Goodman is not commenting on Bowman and he cannot confirm some reports that she and her jailed hus-



METRO NEWS SERVICES

band Black Fielder-Civil have split. Some people close to her expect them to be together when he leaves jail.

"She has been enjoying herself on her break and meeting lots of new people. There are many like-minded people there having extended breaks. Amy is a friendly person and very sociable and behaving exactly as I would expect her to do," Goodman says.

'I used to be a hooligan'

PEOPLE Noel Gallagher used to be a soccer hooligan, according to femalefirst.co.uk.

The Oasis guitarist confessed he went to Manchester City games with notoriously dangerous gangs including Mayne Line Crew, Under-5s and Young Gunners.

He said: "I knew all that lot and I still see a few of them today. They were quite mad times. Half of us were on the dole."

"The grounds we used to go to 20 years ago were dangerous, especially night games at Leeds and

places like that, and wondering whether or not you'd make it home in one piece."

Noel also revealed how his love for sport inspired his music career



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

when he united the crowd in song at the Kippax stand at his team's old ground Maine Road.

The 41-year-old rocker, who played live at the famous stadium at the peak of Oasis' '90s popularity, added to Britain's The Sun newspaper: "I did start a song in the Kippax when I'd had a drink. Probably something like, Everywhere We Go or similar and everyone joined in."

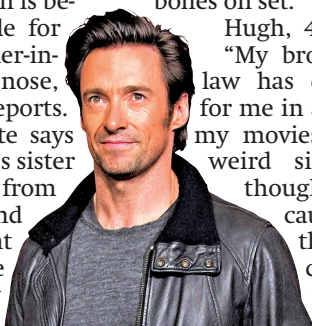
"So maybe the first seeds of my songwriting career were sown at the back of the Kippax." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Stunts cause Jackman family strife

PEOPLE Hugh Jackman is being held responsible for breaking his brother-in-law's leg, wrist and nose, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The gossip website says the Australian actor's sister Sonya banned him from using her husband Richard as his stunt double after he broke so many

bones on set. Hugh, 40, said: "My brother-in-law has doubled for me in a few of my movies. It's a weird situation, though, because things can go wrong."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

"One time on Van Helsing he was doubling for me in a scene where I got really thrown about. He ended up breaking his leg and I had to phone my sister to explain and say I was sending him home."

"He's cracked his wrist and nose, too. She's not best pleased."

Brit falls prey to Twitter pranksters

PEOPLE Britney Spears has been targeted by online pranksters who have crudely mocked her private parts, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Womanizer singer was left red-faced when the upsetting message was posted on her account on networking site Twitter.

Twitter officials were quick to take down the of-

fensive message, and insist they are working to make Twitter more secure, the gossip site says.

A notice on the site read: "A number of high-profile Twitter accounts were compromised this morning, and fake/spam updates were sent on their behalf. We have identified the cause and blocked it. We are working to restore compromised accounts."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Smokes and drinks for unpregnant Moss

PEOPLE Kate Moss seems to have put an end to rumours that she is pregnant by smoking and drinking on holiday, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The supermodel has been snapped puffing on cigarettes and drinking beer while sunning herself

in Thailand with boyfriend Jamie Hince and daughter Lila Grace.

She has however been seen patting her belly and wearing loose fitting clothing leaving onlookers confused but we think it's safe to say she is not with child, femalefirst.co.uk adds.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cowell helps singer Cole

PEOPLE Simon Cowell has hired a team of top lawyers to help get Girls Aloud singer Cheryl Cole a U.S. working visa, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The music mogul is so keen to kick start the star's career in America he is doing everything he can to convince authorities to allow

her to sing in the country. Cheryl has struggled to obtain essential paperwork after being convicted of assault in 2003.

A source said: "He just needs to iron out her visa problem. He's employed a firm of experts in Miami and is confident they will be able to reach some kind of arrangement."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

If Romeo and Juliet ended after act one everybody would be much better off.

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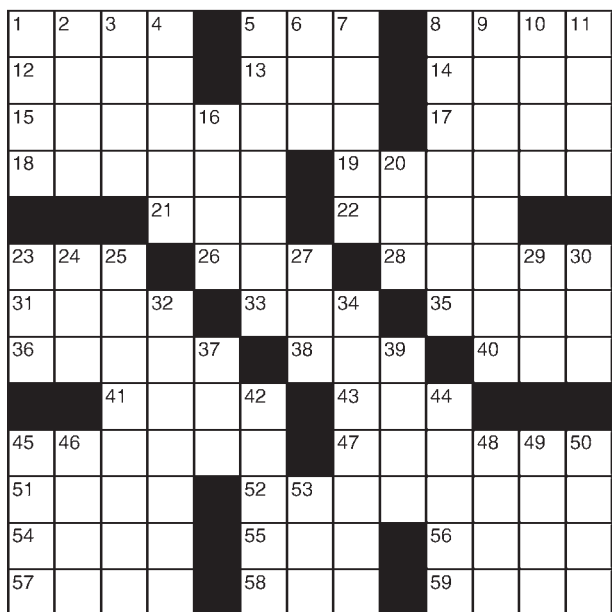


Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television

"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."

WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five



Crossword across

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 1 Basilica section | 23 Bonfire residue | 43 Chic, to Austin Powers |
| 5 Chart | 26 Bottom line | 45 Antiknock rating |
| 8 Pinnacle | 28 "The Lord is my shepherd, ..." e.g. | 47 Blood fluids |
| 12 Like some dorms | 31 Italy's silhouette | 51 Avoid at all costs |
| 13 Lamb's dam | 33 Party bowlful | 52 Loss of courage |
| 14 Gunky stuff | 35 Despot | 54 Took a powder |
| 15 Trouble | 36 Contestant's postcard | 55 Citric beverage |
| 17 Low-voiced woman | 38 Glutton | 56 Unravel |
| 18 Seinfeld role | 40 Type squares | 57 Dispatches, mob-style |
| 19 Skips a phoneme | 41 Sought restitution | 58 "Of course" |
| 21 Neither mate | | 59 Harvard rival |
| 22 Galvanization matter | | |

Crossword down

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 1 Rue the run | 20 Back talk | city |
| 2 Motel amenity | 23 \$5 portrait | 46 Swedish Muppet |
| 3 — good example | 24 Bart, to Homer | 48 Antitoxins |
| 4 Buzz Aldrin's real name | 25 Something exceptionally good | 49 Repast |
| 5 Preprinted, as postage | 27 Gratuity | 50 Eyelid woe |
| 6 Shock partner | 29 Felon's flight | 53 Rhyming tribute |
| 7 Actress Rosie | 30 — Doubtfire | |
| 8 Opposing | 32 Those favoring a classless society? | |
| 9 Unsolved mystery | 34 Zits | |
| 10 Speck | 37 Longing | |
| 11 Grand verse | 39 Prospector's hope | |
| 16 Unsigned (Abbr.) | 42 Rot | |
| | 44 Cartoon duck | |
| | 45 Scandinavian | |

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



6	5	7	3	2	9	8	4	1
3	9	4	1	6	8	7	5	2
1	8	2	5	4	7	3	9	6
4	2	8	9	1	6	5	3	7
9	7	1	2	3	5	4	6	8
5	3	6	8	7	4	2	1	9
7	6	5	4	8	1	9	2	3
2	1	9	7	5	3	6	8	4
8	4	3	6	9	2	1	7	5

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	21-25 min	Not bad
13-17 min	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Spiced steak with speedy ratatouille

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 tbsp (60 ml) olive oil
- 3 shallots
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 lb (500 g) zucchini
- 2/3 lb (300 g) baby, or small, eggplants
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried oregano
- 4 tbsp (60 ml) red wine
- 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) chopped tomatoes
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) tomato paste
- Salt
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground coriander
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground cumin
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground paprika
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) cayenne pepper
- 4 sirloin or rump steaks, about 6 oz (170 g) each

METHOD:

- Heat 2 tbsp (25 ml) oil in large saucepan. Peel and chop shallots and garlic, add to the pan, and cook over a moderate heat for 3-4 minutes.
- Meanwhile, rinse, dry, and trim zucchinis and

eggplants and cut into 1/2 in. (1 cm) chunks. Stir into shallots with thyme and oregano, and cook gently for 5 minutes.

3. Add wine, tomatoes and juice, tomato paste and a little salt, then cover and simmer gently for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until vegetables have softened.

4. While ratatouille is cooking, put spices into small bowl, add pinch of salt, and mix together. Season steaks on both sides with spice mixture.

5. Heat remaining olive oil in heavy-based frying pan until faint haze rises, then fry steaks for 4-4 1/2 minutes per side for rare steak, 5 1/2-6 for medium-rare or 6-8 1/2 for well done, depending on meat's thickness. Serve with ratatouille.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Worrying interrupts your work time. You have to please a VIP. A dim-witted man will jump to conclusions.



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

A superbly cynical person will fail. Call someone to express your respect. Going through a crisis is exasperating.



GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

Make a good deal with a tough call. It's time to face the truth about indecision. Don't be confrontational with the wrong person.



CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

A simple error creates chaos. Stop chasing an impossible dream. Angry people will be astounded by a strange person.



LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23

You can influence the public. Don't defeat yourself by being naive. A misplaced shoe will waste time.



VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

You'll appreciate what an older person says. A phobia can be fixed by a professional. You'll make a discovery when everybody talks at once.



LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

Your positive attitude will lift everyone's spirits. A stubborn person will support you. Don't lose your temper due to a quarrel.



SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

A guilty person avoids punishment again. An unemployed person is shaken by bureaucracy. An informer will come to your rescue.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

An important man is being nagged. An upset friend will make a truce. A complicated argument will make you laugh.



CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

You might escape from a passionate fascination. A business problem will develop later on. A charismatic person is oblivious to everyone.



AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

Avoid causing resentment in a family. A significant event will be mystifying. Make a decision about a troublemaker.



PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

A committed shopper finds a remarkable bargain. Reassure a fearful person. You can enjoy a fated encounter.



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